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STURM
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515-288-9589 • FAX 515-288-4860 • www.hsllp.com

January 11, 2010

Pete Gurtler
315 Western Ave.
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

RE: **United States Patent No. 7,108,272 issued September 19, 2006 "Trailer Hitch
Cushioning Device and Method of Using Same"**
Our File: 2-5800-004

Pete:

In accordance with our previous correspondence to you dated August 26, 2009, and your response to us of September 9, 2009, wherein you indicated that you did not wish for us pay the current maintenance fee due, attached is our Request to Withdraw in this matter. The fee can still be paid up until March 19, 2010 without payment of additional fees. After March 19, 2010 and up until September 19, 2010, the fee can be paid to the Patent Office with the payment of a surcharge fee, in addition to the current maintenance fee. After September 19, 2010 your patent will be abandoned and all rights thereto will be terminated.

When the Request is approved by the Patent Office, we no longer will be responsible for receiving notices regarding the patent.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Sturm

MOS:cc

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August 26, 2009

Pete Gurtler
315 Western Ave.
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

RE United States Patent No. 7,108,272 issued September 19, 2006 "Trailer Hitch
Cushioning Device and Method for Using Same"
Our File: 2-5800-004

Pete:

The Patent Office requires the payment of maintenance fees for all issued utility patents. The fees become due 3½, 7½, and 11½ years after the date of issuance. If the fees are not timely paid, the patent lapses and all of your rights are lost.

Your first maintenance fee is now due in the amount of \$490 (United States Patent and Trademark Office fee.). Our charges for the docketing, maintenance and preparation of all required forms is \$500. This \$500 includes our keeping a current docket on the due dates for your upcoming maintenance fees, reminding you of the due date for payment of same, and follow up letters.

Please forward your payment to us by September 25, 2009 in the amount of \$990 to avoid paying the higher government fee which will take effect on October 1, 2009. Upon our receipt of same we will proceed with paying the fee to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office increases their fees annually on October 1 of each year. If the above fee is not paid prior to October 1, 2009, higher government fees will be incurred.

You may receive a letter from a NON-GOVERNMENT entity attempting to mislead you into believing they are an agency of the United States Government, i.e., United States Patent and Trademark Office, and offering their services to you regarding payment of the current maintenance fee due on your patent. We would encourage you to ignore their letter and their request for money. If you have questions regarding receipt of this non-government letter, please call me at once to discuss it further.

We also take this opportunity to remind you to promptly let us know if your status changes from "small" to "large" entity so that we may prepare the necessary forms for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, as required. If you have licensed this Patent to a company having more than 500 employees - including all affiliates, we must have this information before payment of your current maintenance fee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Sturm

MOS:cc

- ☐ YES, please pay the current maintenance fee. My check for \$990 enclosed.
- ☐ YES, please pay this maintenance fee. However, small entity status no longer applies. My check for \$1,480 is enclosed.
- ☐ NO, please **DO NOT** pay this maintenance fee. I understand that by not paying the current fee, the patent will lapse and all rights will be lost.

Pete Gurtler

Date: _____